

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 30, 2008. With this Amendment, claim 24 is amended to include limitations from objected to claim 25. Claim 24 is canceled. Claims 24 and 26 are presented for reconsideration and allowance along with allowed claims 1, 8-15 and 18-20.

Claim Rejections -35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiseloge et al. (US 6,130,796), hereafter referred to as “Wiseloge,” in view of Miyata et al. (US 2004/0080862), hereafter referred to as “Miyata.” Dependent claims 25 and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 24, but were stated by the Examiner to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. With this Amendment, now canceled claim 25 is rewritten in independent form via amendment to independent claim 24. Therefore, independent claim 24 should be in condition for allowance, as should dependent claim 26. Allowance of claims 24 and 26, along with previously allowed claims 1, 8-15 and 18-20, is respectfully requested.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action’s characterizations of the art, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejection claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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